

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said prostate cancer cell is from a biopsy tissue sample from a patient for whom a prediction of metastasis of prostate cancer is sought.

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the MUC18 polypeptide antigen is a middle portion of the MUC18 polypeptide and consists of the amino acid residues of 211-376 of the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 6-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said prostate cancer cell is a cell line cell.

Claims 13-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended) A method of predicting a risk for metastasis of a prostate cancer cell consisting essentially of measuring ~~the level of~~ expression of ~~the~~ a MUC18 coding sequence in said prostate cancer cell, wherein the ~~level of~~ expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is determined by immunoassay using antibodies specific for an epitope of MUC18 polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, whereby a higher expression of the MUC18 coding sequence in said prostate cancer cell compared to that in a normal prostate cell indicates a risk of metastasis for the prostate cancer cell.

Claim 22 (new) A method of predicting a risk for metastasis of a prostate cancer cell consisting essentially of measuring the level of expression of the MUC18 coding sequence in said prostate cancer cell, wherein the level of expression of the MUC18 coding sequence is determined by immunoassay using antibodies specific for a MUC18 polypeptide consisting of amino acid residues 211-376 of the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, whereby a higher expression of the MUC18 coding sequence in said prostate cancer cell compared to the level of expression in a normal prostate cell indicates a risk of metastasis for the prostate cancer cell.
